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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant : Peter LITSCHKO et al.

Serial No. : Not yet known (U.S. National Stage of  
PCT/EP00/04166 filed May 10, 2000)

Filed : Not yet known

For : METHOD FOR GENERATING PATIENT-  
SPECIFIC IMPLANTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified patent  
application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1-4 as follows, the amendments being shown by brackets and  
underscoring in the Appendix I hereto:

1. (Amended) Method for manufacturing a patient-specific implant,  
comprising generating a virtual three-dimensional model from image data of at  
least the patient's implant area and the environment thereof, comparing the virtual  
three-dimensional model to real medical reference data, selecting from the real  
medical reference data a set of said reference data best suited for the patient and  
forming a reference model object therefrom, generating a virtual implant model

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